



## Finding Joy

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*

One of my regular prayers involves seeking a greater experience of the Joy of the Lord. Now, if I'm honest, I can't say that I always 'feel' happy. Sometimes the circumstances of life make that a great challenge. But, Joy and Happiness aren't the same thing. One of the great lessons I've learned over the years is to seek things that will last. So often, the world invites us, even begs us, to do anything we want in the pursuit of happiness. Even our nation's founding documents speak of 'the pursuit of happiness' as one of our inalienable rights.

While there's certainly nothing wrong with being happy (I like being happy and being around people who are happy), the problem with happiness is that it doesn't last. Once happiness wears off, we have to go out and find it all over again, like the next meal for our hungry stomachs. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have something that sticks around deep down inside through the good times and the bad? Well, that's what God's desire is for us.

We can experience a deep sense of joy when we remember whose we are. We are God's beloved children. God claims us as His own. He will never let us go. We belong to something much greater than ourselves. These are reasons for joy! Along with joy come other wonderful gifts like peace and hope, which also last. Seek these things first, the treasures of the kingdom of God.

Grace, Peace, and JOY!  
Pastor David

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